IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In FIG. 2, a numeral number 15 indicates a ~~control means~~ controller provided in the egg counter 10, and a numeral number 14 indicates data output cable that transmits data with respect to the number of eggs counted by the egg counter 10.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 26 and continuing to page 6, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 4, when the egg E is passing under the infrared light receiving element ~~array 11~~ array 11a, the infrared light R emitted from each of the infrared light emitting elements of said arrays ~~12 and 13~~ 12a and 13a reflects on a surface of the egg E and then the reflected infrared ~~light R~~ light R1 and R2 is received by the corresponding infrared light receiving element of said ~~array 11~~ array 11a. The reflected infrared light received by each of the infrared light receiving elements is transmitted to the ~~control means~~ controller 15. The ~~control means~~ controller 15 is operated to measure the light intensity of the reflected infrared light and detect a peak value of the light intensity on the basis of the measured light intensities.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Since the infrared light emitting element arrays ~~12 and 13~~ 12a and 13a are alternately and sequentially turned on, when the egg E is passing just under the infrared light receiving element ~~array 11~~ array 11a , the infrared lights R1 emitted from the infrared light emitting element ~~array 12~~ array 12a and the infrared light R2 emitted from the infrared light emitting element ~~array 13~~ array 13a are continuously reflected on the

surface of the same egg E, and then are continuously received by the infrared light receiving element ~~array 11~~ array 11a. Therefore, if the ~~control means~~ controller 15 continuously detects two peak values of the light intensity, the egg E is counted. Oppositely, even if one peak value of the light intensity is detected by the ~~control means~~ controller 15, when two consecutive peak values cannot be detected, the egg is not counted.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 5, when the eggs are crowded on the egg collection conveyer 7, the infrared light R1 emitted form the infrared light emitting element 12a might reflect twice on the surfaces of the two eggs E1 and E2, and then the infrared light receiving element 11a might receive the twice reflected infrared light R1. However, in this case, the reflected infrared light R2 emitted from the infrared light emitting element 13a can not received by the infrared light receiving element 11a. Therefore, if the twice reflected infrared light R1 is interpreted as a peak value of the light intensity by the ~~control means~~ controller, the ~~control mean~~ controller can not detect two consecutive peak values, so that an extra egg will not be miscounted.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 6, if the infrared light R1 emitted form the infrared light emitting element 12a reflects twice on the both surfaces of the conveyer 7 and the egg E, and then the twice reflected light is received by the infrared light receiving element 11a, the reflected infrared light R2 emitted form the infrared light emitting element 13a can not received by the infrared light receiving element 11a. Therefore, if the twice reflected

infrared light R1 is interpreted as a peak value of the light intensity by the ~~control means~~ controller, the ~~control mean~~ controller can not detect two consecutive peak values, so that an extra egg will not be miscounted.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment mentioned above, the infrared ~~lihgt~~ light emitting element arrays ~~12 and 13~~ 12a and 13a are arranged to alternately and sequentially emit the infrared light. It is, however, appreciated that the irradiation timing is not restricted to the illustrated embodiment. For example, if it is assumed that the period during which firstly the first infrared light emitting element ~~array 12~~ array 12a is turn on while the second infrared light emitting element ~~array 13~~ array 13a is turned off, then the first infrared light emitting element ~~array 12~~ array 12A is turned off while the second infrared light emitting element ~~array 13~~ array 13a is turned off, and the first and second infrared light emitting element arrays ~~12 and 13~~12a and 13a are turned off is one cycle of the operation, it is possible to repeatedly operate the infrared light emitting element arrays ~~12 and 13~~12a and 13a at 100 operation cycles per second in the area of AC power supply system having a frequency of 50 Hz and at 120 operation cycles per second in the area of AC power supply system having a frequency of 60 Hz, respectively. By matching the operation of the infrared light emitting section with the frequency of AC power supply in such a manner, even if there is disposed fluorescent lighting system near the egg counter, the any influence of the fluorescent lighting on the operation of the egg counter can be effectively suppressed.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

In the above embodiment, the infrared light receiving element ~~array 11~~ array 11a and infrared light emitting element arrays ~~12 and 13~~ 12a and 13a comprise eight elements respectively, the number of the elements consisting of the each array is not restricted to the above embodiment.